

MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL

CITY OF AUSTIN, TEXAS

Special Meeting

December 18, 1965

COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL

The meeting was called to order with Mayor Palmer presiding.

Roll Call:

Present: Councilmen Shanks, Long, LaRue, White, Mayor Palmer

Absent: None

The Mayor announced that it was 10:00 a.m. and time for the Special Meeting concerning the settlement of four tax cases being appealed from the Board of Equalization. The appeals were being made by Marvin Bergstrom's Penthouse Apartment, David Barrow, Cambridge Towers and the Texan Hotel.

The Council voted tax relief to the Texan Hotel at 121 West 7th Street and at the same time lowered taxes on other properties on the southside of Seventh between Colorado and the Congress Avenue alley. In granting the appeal the Council lowered the basis for figuring the Texan Hotel's property assessment from \$1,800 to \$1,600 per Seventh Street front foot. To apply evenly, the same basis would be used to figure taxes on the Texan's neighbors. However, Jack Klitgaard, tax assessor-collector, told the Council that the ruling did not have to apply on the north side of the street because of the higher value of the Capital National Bank Building. He further stated that the ruling did not have to cross the alley toward Congress Avenue, an area where assessments were protested earlier in the year by owner George Nalle.

Chairman of the City's Planning Commission, David Barrow had protested the ruling's of the Board of Equalization on many underdeveloped portions of land in the northwest hills. Barrow's protests covered 978 acres at 19 lots with assessments ~~with assessments~~ totaling \$591,110. Barrow stated that the lots should be counted as acreage rather than subdivisions on lots since he had not opened his subdivision.

* The Council voted ^{hi}unanimously to sustain the Board of Equalization.

The Council then debated taxes on the Penthouse and Cambridge Towers. Mr. Marvin Bergstrom had requested that the Council deduct approximately \$100,000 off the assessment of \$788,507 on his Penthouse Apartment Hotel. The major part of the Council's debate centered on trying to equalize the differences between square foot costs on the Penthouse and Cambridge Towers. The Penthouse was assessed at an average of \$8.71 per square foot and the Cambridge ^{Towers} was assessed at \$12.58 per square foot. Councilman Shanks stated that the Council had no basis for lowering either of the assessments. He then urged for an equalization that would bring Cambridge Towers within \$3.00 per square foot of the Penthouse. Councilman LaRue and Councilman Long wanted the

* Penthouse assessment lowered. The Council then unanimously voted to sustain the Board of Equalization. Cambridge Towers was granted relief of \$167,000 due to a mathematical error found in tax office computations. This left their assessment at \$1,596,290.

The Council had ^{made}~~paid~~ on site inspections ^{during the Tuesday session} of all the properties in question. They then praised Mr. Klitgaard for his work with the tax department and noted that of the 23,000 tax notices handled that year, only 13 were appealed to the City Council.

ADJOURNMENT

The Council then adjourned.

APPROVED _____

Mayor

ATTEST _____

City Clerk